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Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement
Connecticut General Assembly

Testimony in favor of S. B. 928, "An Act Concerning Teacher Preparation"

I wish to testify for the language as contained in Section 1 of the raised Bill. I am specifically for the proposed study in (3) that will provide "research-based reading instruction" to be taught in our institutions of higher learning. This emphasis is an important consideration to improve reading instruction in Connecticut.

Besides being an attorney, I have my Comprehensive Special Education certification (065) and Intermediate Administration and Supervision certification (092). My experiences in Special Education have focused to a great extent on instruction for students identified with reading disabilities. I am acutely aware that by the time a student with such difficulties enters middle school or high school a great deal of time and effort must be expended by the district to try and ameliorate the difficulties. Addressing a child's reading needs early on through proven methods will reduce the need to expend resources later on.

As we all know too well, a child who is unable to read is going to be limited in fully participating in life's activities as we can continue to evolve into a knowledge based economy. The cost of not addressing the problem of effective reading instruction not only affects the taxpayers but also society at large. Study after study has shown that large percentages of the incarcerated population are not literate. Many argue, correctly I think, that improving the rate of literacy will reduce the rate of incarceration.

Thank you for your time and consideration.